

Summary of Natural Resources within Topanga State Park

GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The Park is located on the eastern edge of the Santa Monica Mountains. While the other coast ranges in California run north-south, the Transverse Ranges run predominantly east-west due to a bend in the San Andreas Fault, which has pushed the mountain ranges up around it. Sedimentary rock are most common on the western slopes while granitic and metamorphic rock dominate in the eastern mountains. Elevations in the Park range from 4-2,614 ft (1.2-797 m) near Fossil Ridge. Topographic relief is diverse and in some cases extreme.

HYDROLOGY

The Park encompasses parts of five different watersheds with Topanga Creek and Upper Santa Monica Bay the two largest. The Topanga Creek Watershed is one of the few watersheds remaining in southern California with large sections publicly owned and protected.

There are numerous intermittent, ephemeral, and a few perennial drainages within the Park. Topanga Creek is the largest perennial drainage in the Park and currently one of only two creeks left in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed supporting a reproducing population of steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

Soils

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service has mapped eleven soil series in the Park. These soils vary widely in depth, fertility, permeability, and other important characteristics. There is one listed hydric soils (Cumulic Haploxerolls, 0 to 9 percent slopes) identified within Park boundaries.

Vegetation

From 2001 to 2005 the National Park Service in conjunction with other federal and State agencies developed a vegetation map to document the vegetation types found within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) in which the Park is located. Vegetation communities identified within Park boundaries include coastal oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, chamise-redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, valley foothill riparian, fresh emergent wetland, annual grassland, and eucalyptus.

Wildlife Resources

There are 424 wildlife species potentially occurring within the Park. This includes 277 avian species, 85 mammals, 46 reptiles, and 16 amphibians.

A total of 13 special status wildlife species, three fish species, and five invertebrate species were identified as occurring within or in the vicinity of Topanga State Park. In addition, critical habitat (USFWS Recovery Unit LA-2) for the tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) is identified at the mouth of Topanga Creek.

Various bat species:

California provides habitat for 25 bat species in the families Phyllostomidae, Vespertilionidae, and Molossidae with 22 known to occur within Los Angeles County. Fifteen are rare and/or considered Mammal Species of Special Concern by California Department of Fish and Game, Species of Concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the U.S. Forest Service.

Though only one bat species is known to occur within the Park boundaries, it is likely that numerous other bats species are/could be potentially present. It is probable that the Park would be used for foraging and various roosting (hibernation, night, maternity) activities.

Botanical Resources

According to a botanical survey conducted in the early 1980's (Muns 1983), 346 plant species are known to occur within the park boundaries. A total of 20 special status plant species and 6 rare natural communities were identified as occurring within or in the vicinity of Topanga State Park.